



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of Tennessee's Peer Recovery Specialist Certification program?

State certification as a Peer Recovery Specialist is intended to ensure that individuals who provide direct peer-to-peer services meet acceptable minimum standards.

2. Who oversees Tennessee's Peer Recovery Specialist Certification program?

The Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services shall develop policies and procedures within Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse guidelines to grant certification and to ensure that acceptable professional minimum standards are established.

3. Where can a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist work?

Programs in which Certified Peer Recovery Specialists can work include, but are not limited to: Peer Support Centers, Crisis Stabilization Units, licensed alcohol and drug abuse treatment centers, alcohol and drug abuse recovery support services centers, detoxification centers, psychosocial rehabilitation programs, inpatient hospital settings, community mental health agencies, and veteran's hospitals, among others.

4. Does the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services provide employment or job placement?

No. Tennessee's Peer Recovery Specialist Certification Program is not an offer of employment or job placement by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. However, Peer Recovery Specialist job opportunities at other agencies are listed at http://www.recoverywithinreach.org/employment/jobortunity_board

5. Who supervises Certified Peer Recovery Specialists?

Each Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, either employed or volunteer, must be under the general supervision of a behavioral health professional in accordance with acceptable guidelines and standards of practice as defined by the State and as defined in the TDMHSAS Licensure rules, Chapter 0940-05-01.02 (6) and 0940-05-01.16 (7).

6. Do provider agencies hold Certified Peer Recovery Specialist employees to the same standards as other employees?

Yes. Provider agencies should maintain the same expectations for Certified Peer Recovery Specialist employees as for all other employees.

7. Where is the Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Training offered? Is there a fee?

There is no fee for the training itself; however, each training participant is responsible for his or her own transportation, lodging, meals, snacks, and beverages. For training applications and dates of upcoming trainings, contact the Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services toll-free at 1-800-560-5767 or visit <http://www.tn.gov/mental/recovery/oca1.html> or <http://www.recoverywithinreach.org>

8. How can provider agencies ensure that Certified Peer Recovery Specialist employees or volunteers maintain confidentiality?

Maintaining confidentiality and privacy of all individuals receiving services is a legitimate concern and a major issue to emphasize with all employees and volunteers, not just Certified Peer Recovery Specialists. All employees and volunteers should receive Title 33 training, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and 42 C.F.R. Part 2 training, and education on their duty to uphold confidentiality. Every employee should be aware that all information regarding a person's recovery and treatment status is confidential.

9. How do I bill TennCare (Medicaid) for Certified Peer Recovery Specialist services?

Only agencies that have included peer recovery services in their contracts with the health plans, also called Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), can bill for a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist's services to TennCare members and only when deemed medically necessary. Individual Certified Peer Recovery Specialists cannot bill TennCare (Medicaid).

10. Once certified, can I provide peer recovery services from my own home or office?

No. Peer recovery services, either for employment or volunteer, should be provided in a supervised environment with supervision from a behavioral health professional in accordance with acceptable guidelines and standards of practice as defined by the State and as defined in the TDMHSAS Licensure rules, Chapter 0940-05-01.02 (6) and 0940-05-01.16 (7).